



THE SEMINOLE GREENTHUMB

Residential Horticulture
Seminole County Extension
407-665-5550



APRIL - MAY - JUNE

LAWNS:

- **Mowing:** Cut the grass as high as recommended for your particular variety. Do not remove more than 1/3 the height of the leaf blade with any mowing. St. Augustine grass standard varieties should be cut to a height of 3-4 inches and semi-dwarf varieties 2.5 inches.
- **Irrigation:** Apply $\frac{3}{4}$ to one inch of water twice a week when the temperatures increase in the spring. Adjust schedule if rains occur.
- **Weed Control:** Apply pre-emergence herbicides such as atrazine or pendimethalin in May. Do not apply these products if the turf is under moisture stress or if air temperatures exceed 85 degrees F.
- **Fertilization:** Fertilize two weeks after spring new growth. Apply a complete fertilizer at the rate of one pound of nitrogen per 1000 square feet. Apply manganese only or with other micronutrients as a fertilizer bimonthly at 0.4 pounds per 1000 square feet if deficiency symptoms appear.
- **Pest Control:** If pest problems are suspected, take a sample to the Extension office nearest you for diagnosis.

CITRUS

- **Fertilization:** Apply a citrus special fertilizer in May for bearing trees. This should be the 2nd application of fertilizer of the year. Apply the fertilizer 1 ft. away from the trunk up to few feet past the drip line of the tree.

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SPRING 2011

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Dr. Al Ferrer
Urban Horticulturist
Seminole County Extension
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HORTICULTURAL SERVICES



Horticultural Agent Dr. Al Ferrer

Soil Testing Tests performed Mon & Thu.
Fee \$2.00 per sample
Samples accepted Mon-Fri 8:00am-5:00pm

Plant Clinic Mon.- Fri. 8:00am - 5:00pm
Bring in a sample

"Ask A Master Gardener" Call 407-665-5550
Phone Service Mon.- Fri. 9:00am - 4:00pm

Speakers, Workshops, Special events
Free Publications on many lawn & garden topics

UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA
IFAS ~ EXTENSION
<http://solutionsforyourlife.com>
<http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu>
<http://hort.ifas.ufl.edu>

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(Continued from pg 1)

- **Irrigation:** Citrus should be watered with two applications of $\frac{3}{4}$ to 1 inch of water per week.
- **Pruning:** Pruning should be done only to remove diseased or unproductive branches. Citrus trees can be pruned from March through June.
- **Pest Control:** For prevention of pest problems, apply a copper fungicide (follow the label instructions) and 2 teaspoons of malathion per gallon of water during late April to early May.

PALMS

- **Fertilization:** Palms should be fertilized three times per year and in deep sandy soils six times per year. Use a palm special fertilizer 8-12-4MG slow release fertilizer 1.5 pounds per 100 square feet three times per year. The 2nd application of the year should be in May. Fertilize all landscape plants within 50 feet from the palm with the palm special fertilizer. If the palm is in the turf area, do not fertilize your grass with a turf fertilizer since it can induce severe nutritional deficiencies in the palm that can lead to its death.
- **Irrigation:** Most palms will benefit from a supplemental watering once per week. Palms from arid regions such as Date Palms should not be in irrigation areas designed for turf.
- **Pruning:** Palms only require removal of dead, badly damaged or diseased leaves. Make the first cut from under leaf petiole and then make the next cut from the top to avoid tearing the bark of the palm as you cut the leaf.

Spring Vegetables & Herbs

VEGETABLES – Calabaza, Cantaloupe, Cassava, Chayote, Cherry tomato, Cucumber, Dasheen, Eggplant, Malanga, Okra, Pepper, Roselle, Snap bean, Squash, Southern pea, Sweet potato, and Yam.

HERBS - Anise, Basil, Chives, Dill, Borage, Oregano, Mint, Rosemary, Sage, Sweet marjoram and Thyme.

BULBS - Agapanthus, Amaryllis, Begonia, Caladium, Canna, Crinum, Dahlia, Gladioli, Gloriosa lily, and Rain lily.



FLORIDA YARDS & NEIGHBORHOODS PROGRAM

www.seminolecountyfl.gov/fyn

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1. Right Plant, Right Place | 6. Manage Yard Pests Responsibly |
| 2. Water Efficiently | 7. Recycle |
| 3. Fertilize Appropriately | 8. Reduce Stormwater Runoff |
| 4. Mulch | 9. Protect the Waterfront |
| 5. Attract Wildlife | |

Most homeowners are busy cleaning up and replacing plants and grass in their yards. Mulching, raking, spring time fertilizing, inspecting and repairing your irrigation systems are some of these activities. As we begin the hard work of cleaning up from our cold winter and preparation for our hot summer, implementing Florida-Friendly Landscaping™ practices will help protect our lakes, rivers and streams. The big push for getting our sodded areas off to a healthy start requires that we use fertilizers and pesticides appropriately and use our water efficiently. University of Florida research shows that plants require certain chemical elements for proper growth and appearance. For Instance, turfgrasses require macronutrients nitrogen (N), phosphorous (P) and potassium (K). As many people know, these elements are in the commercial fertilizers homeowners can purchase. Nitrogen (N) is used by the plants to obtain dark green color. Most fertilizers combine quick release and slow release (N) in their products. Quick release unabsorbed nitrogen is susceptible to leaching and runoff which leads to nutrient rich water and feeds algae in our waterways.

Look for a product with high percentage of slow-release content, such as 30-50%. UF research shows healthy turfgrasses absorb the nitrogen but poor quality, slow growing, improperly fertilized grasses leach much more than those growing at optimum levels.

Phosphorus (P) is naturally occurring in much of our soils and is mined and processed in Florida and sent all over the world to improve soil quality. Research has shown that fertilizers for Florida turf grasses do not need much phosphorous. There are available phosphorus sources (ie. grass clippings) that can be taken up by turfgrass roots and used when it needed at times of active growth. When you shop choose a fertilizer brand with no or little phosphorus in it.

Here are few other tips you need to know about fertilizing;

1. How many square feet of turf do you have? The pounds of fertilizer needed per 1000 sq. ft areas you have. (½ lb. Of quick release Nitrogen or 1 lb. slow release Nitrogen per 1000 sq.ft area)
2. Calibrate your spreader- all spreaders are different. The safest way to not over fertilize is to set your spreader on the lowest setting and pour In ½ the amount needed and apply in a north/ south direction; then add the rest and travel in an east/ west direction. If you spill fertilizer on a hard surface be sure to sweep it up and put it back into the spreader or on the grass. Be careful, fertilizers can burn your grass is applied too thickly.
3. After application of fertilizer be sure to water the material into the turf areas which ¼ inch of water. ¼ inch of water which saturates the root areas where it can be absorbed by the plant roots.
4. If you are fertilizing by a waterbody be sure to leave a fertilizer free zone approximately 10 feet wide. Fertilizer applied in a waterbody can cause an algae bloom and kill fish. Use a fertilizer spreader with a deflector shield.

Proper irrigation of your yard will ensure that your yard stays healthy and does not become diseased. Over application of water causes more harm than under. Water only when you see signs of need like when the grass blades are curling. Water on your assigned days only when there have been no other rain events that week. Do not set your timer and forget it! Happy Gardening

To schedule a FYN program for your Homeowner Association or organization, or learn more contact Gabrielle Milch, FYN Coordinator, at 407 665-5575 or fyn@seminolecountyfl.gov. Check out the websites www.seminolecountyfl.gov/fyn and www.FloridaYards.org



“Ask A Master Gardener”

We will help with your gardening and landscape questions.

Monday - Friday
9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
& 1:00 - 4:00 p.m.
407-665-5550

A word about “organic” pesticides
Beware...just because a pesticide is labeled as “organic” (which usually means it is derived from a plant) does not mean that it is not toxic. Organically derived pesticides (like nicotine sulfate, rotenone, sabadilla, etc.) usually break down quickly in the environment, but can be toxic to bees, fish and mammals (including humans).

Environment-friendly spray

1 gallon water
2 tbsp dish soap
(without degreasers)
2 tbsp vegetable oil

Make sure the plant is not stressed from lack of water; if so, water it thoroughly before spraying. Spray in the cooler part of the day. Thorough coverage of the plant is important.

Homemade Fungicide

1 gallon of water
4 teaspoons of baking soda
1 oz. horticulture oil

Sodium bicarbonate (baking soda) in combination with horticultural oils has been shown to control powdery mildew and black spot on roses. Spray weekly to prevent disease.

**test products on a small portion of the plant; wait a day or two: inspect the plant for damage before spraying the entire plant.*

Q. What are the essential properties of a good potting mix?

A. According to the University of Florida, a good potting mix should:

- Be dense enough to support the plant
- Hold nutrients well
- Allow for air and water flow while retaining moisture
- Be free of pathogens and weed seed

Potting mediums must meet plant root requirements for air, water, nutrients, and support, which vary for different plants and growth stages.

For recipes to make your own potting mix, visit;

http://solutionsforyourlife.ufl.edu/hot_topics/lawn_and_garden/homemade_potting_mix.html

Q. Can you suggest some recipes for home made potting mixtures?

A. Foliage plants grow best in potting mixes containing high levels of organic matter, such as peat. The following mixes are suggested for growing foliage plants:

1. Two parts peat, one part perlite, one part coarse sand
2. Two parts peat, one part coarse sand
3. One part peat, one part coarse sand, one part pine bark
4. One part peat, one part pine bark, one part perlite

Additional recipes for different types of plants and seedlings are offered in University of Florida Publication #CIR454 and on the solutionsforyourlife website. Vegetable gardeners seeking recipes for growing vegetables in containers are referred to

Minigardening (Growing Vegetables in Containers), HS708.

Q. Are shell, crushed stone or pebbles good mulching materials?

A. Shell, crushed stone or pebbles can be used as mulch but they won't contribute to the soil's nutrient and organic content or water-holding capacity. They also reflect heat, increasing the water needs of plants.



THE TEACHING GARDENS OF SEMINOLE COUNTY

To educate the community and to encourage the practice of urban horticulture



Free and open to the public during regular business hours. For more information, to request a speaker, or arrange group visits, contact the garden coordinator.

Extension Office Gardens • 250 W County Home Rd, Sanford, 32773

"The January and February freezes and the hopefully last gasp of cold nights in March have taken their toll on the Extension Office gardens. The firebush plants will soon be cut back to near-ground for the third year in a row to see if they thrive once again. Strawberries are doing well in the new front raised vegetable beds. Transplanted bulbines are vigorously showing their color in the Butterfly garden as are the annuals in the Full Sun garden. Early spring cleaning ahead!"

Coordinator: Jim Bourg, jwbourg@gmail.com

Student Museum Gardens • 301 W. 7th St, Sanford, 32771

Traditionally May Day, a day of festivities and a dance around a Maypole to welcome spring has been celebrated for centuries. On May 7, 2011 from 9:00am to 4:00pm at the Museum you'll see performances by Midway Elementary School's talented young musicians and dancers reenacting the historic dance around the Maypole. There will be garden tours, plant sales and food available. During the day, tour guides from the Master Gardener Program will give tours through the teaching gardens at the museum. Sponsored by SCPS Student Museum and Orlando Area Historical Rose Society.

Coordinator: Dave Grace, dcgrace01@aol.com



Waterwise FY&N Garden • 250 W County Home Rd, Sanford, 32773

Springtime in the garden will feature new plantings for the butterflies.

Milkweed, dill, and parsley are host plants for the caterpillars. Tropical sage and and pentas are nectar plants for the adults. Very Florida-Friendly. Check it out.

Coordinators: Debbie Meinert, dmeinert@seminolecountyfl.gov and Gabrielle Milch, fyn@seminolecountyfl.gov



The Seminole County Master Gardener EXPO

Saturday, October 29, 2011 at Seminole County Cooperative Extension

10:00am to 4:00pm

250 W. County Home Rd., Sanford, Fl. 32773

Pest Alert: *Nematode control*

According to the Department of Entomology and Nematology at the University of Florida, Gainesville, Florida, there are two new promising products that can be used to control nematodes in turfgrasses.

"[Nortica](#)TM is a new turfgrass bionematicide from Bayer. The active ingredient in Nortica is the bacterium *Bacillus firmus* strain I-1582. This bacterium colonizes the root system of the turf and produces compounds that protect the root system from nematodes. Nortica is a wettable powder that dissolves fully in water. It is sprayed onto the turf surface and then moved into the soil with irrigation. University of Florida research has shown this bionematicide to be effective in protecting turfgrass roots from nematode damage when it is applied properly. However, timing is critical with this product to achieve good results. An application schedule map for Florida counties is available from Bayer Environmental Sciences that should be consulted when scheduling applications.

Multiguard Protect: Multiguard ProtectTM is a new turfgrass nematicide/fungicide from Agriguard with the active ingredient furfural. Multiguard Protect is an EC formulation that can be sprayed onto the turf and then moved into the soil with irrigation, or applied as a high-volume drench. Currently Multiguard Protect is labeled for use on golf course turf and sod farms. To date, University of Florida field trials with Multiguard Protect have had inconsistent results, but it has shown efficacy in some field experiments. UF research seeking to improve the consistency of Multiguard Protect is ongoing."





EVENTS UPDATE ~ mark your calendar!

Seminole County Extension

Residential Horticulture

407-665-5550

250 W. County Home Rd
Sanford FL 32773

Located across from Flea World,
17-92 & County Home Road

— — — — —
Your Community Resource For
Gardening And Landscaping
Information

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[www.seminolecountyfl.gov/
Coopext/](http://www.seminolecountyfl.gov/Coopext/)

Cooperative Extension Services
Seminole County Office

SEMINOLE GREENTHUMB

Free quarterly Newsletter

To receive by email
aferrer@seminolecountyfl.gov

Newsletter Contributors:

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**Seminole County:
USDA Hardiness
Zone 9b
Amer.Hort.Soc.
Heat Zone 10**

April 5, 2011 Farm Tours
9:00am- 2:30pm Self-Guided tours
Six farms on the Tour
More info. 407-665-5560
mlollar@seminolecountyfl.gov.

April 9, 2011 6th Annual Wekiva Riverfest
10:00am - 4:00pm Wekiva Springs State Park
www.friendsofwekiva.org

April 16, 2011 7th Annual Master Gardener Plant Sale
9:00am - 2:00pm Hwy 17-92 and County Home Rd.
In front of Seminole County Museum
Great deals on landscaping plants!!!

April 16 & 17, 2011 Bromeliad & Tropical Plant sale
9:00am - 4:00pm Garden Club Of Sanford
200 Fairmont Dr. Sanford, Fl.
Free!!!
www.sbtps.org

May 7, 2011 Design A Fl. Friendly Landscape
9:30am - 11:30am 200 N. Triplet Lake Dr.
Casselberry Rec. Center@ Secret Lake
Registration required 407-665-5575
fyn@seminolecountyfl.gov.

May 12, 2011 Recycling In Your Yard
6:30pm- 8:30pm Seminole Ext. Service Auditorium
250 W. County Home Rd. Sanford
Registration required 407-665-5575
fyn@seminolecountyfl.gov.

May 14, 2011 Irrigation, Fertilizing & Managing Pests
9:30am-11:30am Seminole Ext. Service Auditorium
250 W. County Home Rd. Sanford
Registration required 407-665-5575
fyn@seminolecountyfl.gov.

June 16, 2011 Rain Barrels & Rainwater Harvesting
6:30pm - 8:30pm Seminole Ext. Service Auditorium
250 W. County Home Rd. Sanford
Registration required 407-665-5575
fyn@seminolecountyfl.gov.

